

Ser. No. 09/695,562

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Response to Final Rejection of 14 May 2003
Atty Docket 117163-4**REMARKS****Claim status**

At the time of the Office Action, claims 2-4, 7, 11, 14, and 17, 18 and 20-23 were pending. As a result of the amendments to claims 17 and 18, no claims are cancelled.

Claims 17 and 18 are amended to positively recite the surface of the stent and to make it clear that the recited coating islands are a feature of the surface.

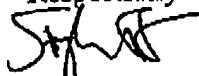
Section 102 Rejections

Yan (US 5,843,172) ("Yan '172")

The claims stand rejected as anticipated by Yan '172. The applicants acknowledge the Examiner's point that the side sectional view of Yan '172 Fig. 2 may present a situation where there is a spacing of the coating islands that is dependent upon the degree of local stretching during radial expansion. However, this spacing occurs internal to the body of the stent, and is not associated with a "surface", especially considering that the longitudinal edges of the stent material in Figure 2 of Yan '172 will be joined to each other when the stent is actually formed from the essentially planar sheet shown in that figure. Hence, the spacing is not exposed as a part of a "surface", so Yan '172 does not read on claims 17 and 18 as presently amended, and the claims should be allowed.

Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections based on the claim amendments made above. After such reconsideration, it is urged that allowance of all claims will be in order.

Respectfully submitted,



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